Please substitute the following paragraph for the second paragraph on page 177 of the specification.

Page 177, paragraph 2 (AMENDED)

a75

To a solution of 2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2-(iodomethyl)-2,4,6,6,8-pentamethyl-5H-furo[2,3-f]indole-5-carbaldehyde (2.42 g, 6.06 mmol) in methanol (10 ml) was added concentrated hydrochloric acid (3 ml), and heated under reflux for 2.5 hours under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was added dropwise to a mixture of sodium hydrogen carbonate (3.7 g, 44 mmol) with water-ethyl acetate, neutralized and extracted three times with ethyl acetate. The organic layers were combined, washed with water and saturated brine, dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain 2.20 g of the title compound. Yield: 98%.

An analytical sample was recrystallized from hexane.

Melting point: 100 - 104°C.

^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 1.33 (6H, s), 1.64 (3H, s), 1.98 (3H, s), 2.03 (3H, s), 2.10-2.60 (1H, br), 2.76 (2H, s), 2.92 (1H, d, J = 15.9 Hz), 3.18 (1H, d, J = 15.9 Hz), 3.41 (2H, s).

Example 14

3,5,6,7-Tetrahydro-2,4,6,6,8-pentamethyl-2-[(4-phenylpiperidino)methyl]-2H-furo[2,3-f]indole

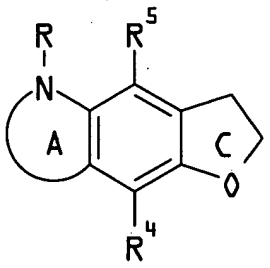
In the Claims

Please cancel claims 20-24 and 29-32 without prejudice to the filing of future continuing applications.

Please substitute the following claims 6, 18 and 19 for the claims 6, 18 and 19 now pending in the above-identified application.

a 76

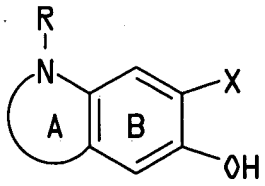
6. (AMENDED) The compound according to Claim 1 which is represented by the formula:



wherein R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each denotes hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group or a hydrocarbon group which may be bonded directly or via oxygen atom, nitrogen atom or sulfur atom and which may be substituted, and the other symbols are as defined in Claim 1, provided that both R^4 and R^5 are not hydrogen atoms at the same time, or a salt thereof.

a 77

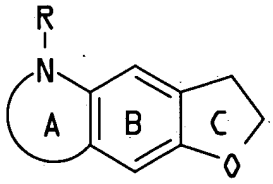
18. (AMENDED) A process for preparing the compound according to Claim 1 or a salt thereof which comprises subjecting a substituent X and hydroxy group on Ring B of a compound represented by the formula:



wherein X is an optionally substituted allyl group, and the other symbols are as defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof to a ring-closure reaction.

contd. a77

19. (AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound represented by the formula:



wherein Ring A is a non-aromatic 5- to 7-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring which may be further substituted,

Ring B is benzene ring which is further substituted,

Ring C is a dihydrofuran ring which may be further substituted and

R is hydrogen atom or an acyl group,

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.